

SUMMONS ISSUED

CV-12 0213

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FILED
IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.
★ JAN 17 2012 ★

MICHAEL LEONE on behalf)
of himself and all others similarly situated)
Plaintiff,)
-against-)
THOMAS A. LANDIS)
Defendant.)

LONG ISLAND OFFICE

SPATT, J.
LINDSAY, M

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Introduction

1. Plaintiff Michael Leone seeks redress for the illegal practices of Thomas A. Landis concerning the collection of debts, in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA").

Parties

2. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York who resides within this District.
3. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by Section 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA, in that the alleged debt that defendant sought to collect from plaintiff is a consumer debt, purportedly owed for a consumer purpose.
4. Defendant's principal place of business is located in Pennsylvania.
5. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers and is an attorney.

6. Defendant is a “debt collector” as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6).

Jurisdiction and Venue

7. This Court has Federal question jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district.
9. On information and belief, on a date better known by defendant, defendant attempted to collect an alleged consumer debt from the plaintiff.
10. On at least one occasion, namely on or about January 15, 2011 a collector left a message for the plaintiff which did not set forth that the communication was concerning the collection of a debt.
11. The defendant’s message did not indicate that the message was from a debt collector.
12. The said telephone message are in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e(11) and 1692e(10).

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act brought by plaintiff on behalf of himself and the members of a class, as against the defendant.

13. Plaintiff restates, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference, paragraphs 1-12 as if set forth fully in this Cause of Action.
14. This action is brought on behalf of plaintiff and the members of a class.

15. The Class consists of consumers who were left a telephone message concerning a consumer debt without having been informed that the communication was from a debt collector.
16. The Class consists of all persons whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of New York and who received telephonic messages from defendant within one year prior to the date of the within complaint up to the date of the filing of the complaint; (a) the telephone message was placed to a consumer seeking payment of a consumer debt; and (c) that plaintiff asserts that the telephone messages were in violation 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e(11) and 1692e(10).
17. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable in this case because:
 - (A) Based on the fact that telephonic messages are at the heart of this litigation, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
 - (B) There are questions of law and fact common to the class and these questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The principal question presented by this claim is whether the Defendant violated the FDCPA.
 - (C) The only individual issue is the identification of the consumers who received the telephonic messages, (*i.e.* the class members), a matter capable of ministerial determination from the records of Defendant.
 - (D) The claims of the plaintiff are typical of those of the class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.

(E) The plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the class members' interests. The plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in bringing class actions and collection-abuse claims. The plaintiff's interests are consistent with those of the members of the class.

18. A class action is superior for the fair and efficient adjudication of the class members' claims. Congress specifically envisions class actions as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. 1692(k). The members of the class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the classes would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties and would not be in the interest of judicial economy.

19. If the facts are discovered to be appropriate, the plaintiff will seek to certify a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
20. Telephonic messages, such as those sent by the defendant are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

21. The actions of the defendant violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
22. Because the defendant violated of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the plaintiff and the members of the class are entitled to damages in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and on behalf of the members of the class, and against the defendant and award damages as follows:

- (a) Statutory damages provided under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. 1692(k);
- (b) Attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs incurred in bringing this action; and
- (c) Any other relief that this Court deems appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Dated: Cedarhurst, New York
January 12, 2012



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Plaintiff requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.



Adam J. Fishbein (AF-9508)